White & Fudala
Attorneys at Law
57 Bedford Street, Suite 103
Lexington, MA 02420
(781) 863-2041
FAX: (781) 863-2250

FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

CONFIDENTIAL

Date: May 19, 2004 FAX NUMBER: 703-872-9306

To: Grp Art Unit 1745 Company: USPTO
Via Central FAX
From: Mark P. White Number Pages(incl this sheet) 3

Regarding: App. No. 10/709545 -Petition to Make Special Under Rule 102(c)

NOTE: THIS MESSAGE MAY CONTAIN CONFIDENTIAL OR PRIVILEGED INFORMATION INTENDED ONLY FOR THE PERSON IDENTIFIED ABOVE. IF IT HAS BEEN RECEIVED AT ANY OTHER PLACE OR HAS NOT BEEN CLEARLY RECEIVED, PLEASE CALL THE ABOVE IDENTIFIED SENDING PARTY COLLECT FOR INSTRUCTIONS. DO NOT SHOW OR DISTRIBUTE THIS MESSAGE TO ANYONE OTHER THAN THE INTENDED RECIPIENT. THANK YOU.

White & Fudala
Attorneys at Law
57 Bedford St.
Suite 103
Lexington, MA 02173
Telephone (781) 863-2041
FAX (781) 863-2250
E-MAIL mark.white@whiteandfudala.com

Mark P. White

Muriel Fudala

May 19, 2004

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER RULE 102 (c)
In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

In re Application of: Samii, Garrin et al.
Filing Date: May 12, 2004
For: Shutdown separators with improved properties
App. No. 10/709545
Docket No. AMS-004

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Petition to Make Special Under 37 C.F.R. Sec. 1.102 (c)

Dear Sir

This is a Petition to Make Special the above-identified patent application. The basis for this petition is twofold:

1. The present invention materially enhances the quality of the environment of mankind by contributing to the restoration or maintenance of the basic life-sustaining natural elements, namely, air, because of its use for hybrid electric vehicles which produce lowered amounts of contaminants into the atmosphere. See MPEP 708.02 V.

2. The present invention materially contributes to both (A) the development of energy resources, and (B) the more efficient utilization and conservation of energy resources, based on its use in hybrid electric vehicles which make more efficient use of the existing hydrocarbon energy. In addition, the present invention provides a method for manufacturing batteries having an inherently longer life, which conserves existing energy resources. See MPEP 708.02 VI.

In accordance with MPEP 708.02 V and VI, the following statement is proffered.

The present invention provides a solution for the problems presently delaying the development and commercialization of hybrid electric vehicles. These HEV's are well known to be substantially more environmentally friendly than existing internal combustion engines. However, among the serious problems remaining in the development of HEV's is the safety problems related to the possible shorting of the electrodes of the high-capacity electric batteries used in these applications, and the related possibility of explosion.

The present invention provides a method to produce a battery separator which either eliminates or substantially reduces the possibility of shorting of the battery electrodes by techniques described therein referred to as "shutdown". This enhanced safety is combined with high efficiency of the batteries of the present invention by maintaining a low electrical resistance of the battery separator.

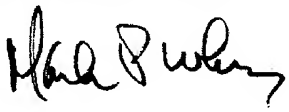
In another aspect of the present invention, the method for producing a battery separator of a very low resistance improves the life of the batteries so produced, so that fewer batteries are required to be produced, and the environmental burden of manufacturing of batteries is thereby reduced.

In summation, the present invention facilitates the use of hybrid electric energy sources in HEV's. It further contributes to the reduction of contaminants in the environment by reducing the emission of various pollutants associated with internal combustion engines, due to the reduction in the amount of hydrocarbons used by HEV's.

It is believed that no fee is required for such a petition, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.102(c). However, should a fee be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any such fee to my Deposit Account No. 231706.

In view of the above, applicant requests that this Petition to Make Special be granted and the examination of the application be advanced.

Respectfully submitted, on May 19, 2004.



Mark P. White, Reg. No. 37,757